

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Re-write the claims as set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a rasterizer operative to generate fragment data for a pixel to be rendered in response to primitive information; and

a pixel appearance determination circuit, coupled to the rasterizer, operative to determine a pixel appearance value based on the fragment data by dropping the fragment data having the least effect on pixel appearance, wherein dropping the fragment data further includes assigning the fragment data to be dropped with a no color designation.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a memory, coupled to the pixel appearance determination circuit, operative to store the fragment data, the stored fragment data being used to generate the pixel appearance value.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the memory includes N locations per pixel for storing the fragment data, and when an N+1 fragment data is provided for a pixel, the pixel appearance determination circuit drops one of the N+1 fragment data.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a display controller, coupled to the render back end circuit, operative to provide the pixel appearance value to a display.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a setup unit operative to generate the primitive information in response to vertex information.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein N has a value greater or equal to 3.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pixel appearance determination circuit is further operative to determine whether the fragment data includes masked sample data, wherein the masked sample data is not dropped, and wherein the masked sample data is used to determine the pixel appearance value.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the appearance of a pixel, comprising:

receiving fragment data for a pixel to be rendered;

storing the fragment data; and

determining an appearance value for the pixel based on the stored fragment data, wherein at least one of the stored fragment data is dropped, said fragment data having the least effect on pixel appearance, wherein dropping at least one of the stored fragment data further includes providing the dropped fragment data with a no color designation.

10. (canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said fragment data is dropped when the number of fragment data per pixel exceed a threshold value, wherein the threshold value is in the range of between 3 and 8.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein before storing the fragment data, the method includes determining whether a number of stored fragment data

exceeds a threshold value, and when the stored fragment data exceeds the threshold value dropping the fragment data having the least effect on pixel appearance.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein before storing the fragment data, the method includes determining whether the fragment data includes masked sample data, wherein the masked sample data is not dropped, and wherein the masked sample data is used to determine the appearance value for the pixel.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein assigning the fragment data to be dropped with a no color designation comprises reducing a number of valid sub-sample locations in the pixel.